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Mental Health Association Honors Hammerstrom
Senator Recognized As Long Time Advocate for Mental Health Services

May 13, 2003-Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) was presented with the 2003 Snyder-Kok Award for her positive contributions to policy issues in regard to mental health services on Monday. The Mental Health Association in Michigan honored Senator Hammerstrom at their Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in Livonia.

The Snyder-Kok Award is granted to Michigan's elected public officials who have made outstanding contributions to mental health services in the state. The honor, named after two former legislators, the late Joseph Snyder and Peter Kok, is the Association's highest honor. Since its creation in 1978, the award has only been given 14 times.

Hammerstrom was chosen as a recipient for the distinguished award for her work to promote mental health insurance parity (equality) legislation, and her efforts to protect and enhance the state's specialty mental health services while serving in both the House of Representatives and the state Senate.

"The Snyder-Kok Award is our way of showing appreciation to our public officials who strive to improve Michigan's mental health services," said Mark Reinstein, Ph.D., President and CEO of the Mental Health Association in Michigan. "We're

pleased to honor Senator Hammerstrom for her consistent efforts. She has truly built an exemplary record of service with respect to mental health issues during her legislative career,” he said.

Hammerstrom helped to re-write the state’s mental health code while serving in the House of Representatives and continues to make mental health issues a priority as Chair of the Senate’s Health Policy Committee.

“The State of Michigan has come a long way in its efforts to improve services for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled,” said Senator Hammerstrom. “It is truly an honor to receive an award for helping some of our state’s most vulnerable citizens,” she said.